# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Cobalt-Catalyzed Enantioselective Radical Hydroamination of Alkenes with N-Fluorobenzenesulfonimides: Theoretical Insight

## of Enantio-Determining $S_N$ 2-like Reductive Elimination

Yu-Jie Liang<sup>a, b</sup>, Bo Zhu<sup>b</sup>, Ya-Bin Jiang<sup>a</sup>, and Wei Guan<sup>b</sup>\*

<sup>a</sup> Precision Medicine Laboratory for Chronic Non-communicable Diseases of Shandong Province, Institute of Precision Medicine, Jining Medical University, Jining, Shandong 272067, People's Republic of China

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Functional Material Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Northeast Normal University, Changchun 130024, People's Republic of China

## **Table of Contents**

COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS	S1
REFERENCES	S9

#### **COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS**

#### 1. Correction of Translational Entropy in Solution

We evaluated the electronic energy  $(E_{sol})$  with zero-point energy correction in solution. For each species, the  $E_{sol}$  is defined through equation (S1):

$$E_{\rm sol} = E_{\rm sol}^{\rm pot} + E_{\rm gas}^{\rm v_0} \tag{S1}$$

the  $E_{sol}^{pot}$  is the potential energy including non-electrostatic energy in solution and  $E_{gas}^{v_0}$  delegates the zero-point vibrational energy in the gas phase. In a bimolecular process, such as the interaction between Co(II) complex and NFSI, the entropy change which can decreases considerably must be taken into consideration. In such case, Gibbs energy ( $G_{sol}^o$ ) need be computed as follows:

$$G_{sol}^{o} = H_{0} - T(S_{r}^{o} + S_{v}^{o} + S_{t}^{o})$$
  
=  $E^{T} + P\Delta V - T(S_{r}^{o} + S_{v}^{o} + S_{t}^{o})$   
=  $E_{sol} + E_{therm} - T(S_{r}^{o} + S_{v}^{o} + S_{t}^{o})$  (S2)

where  $\Delta V$  is 0 in solution,  $E_{therm}$  is the thermal correction by translational, vibrational, and rotational movements, and  $S_r^o$ ,  $S_v^o$ , and  $S_t^o$  are rotational, vibrational, and translational entropies, respectively. In general, the Sackur-Tetrode equation is used to evaluate translational entropy  $S_t^o$ . In solution, however, the usual Sackur-Tetrode equation cannot be directly applied to the evaluation of  $S_t^o$ , because the translational entropy was corrected with the method developed by Whitesides et al., where the rotational entropy was evaluated in a normal manner. Thermal correction and entropy contributions of vibration movements to the Gibbs energy were evaluated with the frequencies calculated at 298.15 K and 1 atm.

#### 2. Activation barrier of single electron transfer step

According to the Marcus equation, the reorganization energy  $\lambda$  is normally decomposed into internal energy ( $\lambda_i$ ) and external energy ( $\lambda_o$ ). The internal reorganization energy  $\lambda_i$  can be estimated according to the equation (S3):

$$\lambda_{i} = [E^{D}(Q_{R}) + E^{A}(Q_{R})] - [E^{D}(Q_{P}) + E^{A}(Q_{P})]$$
(S3)

where  $Q_R$  and  $Q_P$  are the equilibrium geometries of the reactants and products, respectively. In addition, the external reorganization energy  $\lambda_o$  may be calculated from equation (S4–S6):

$$\lambda_o = (332 \text{ kcal/mol})(\frac{1}{2a_1} + \frac{1}{2a_2} - \frac{1}{R})(\frac{1}{\varepsilon_{op}} - \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$$
(S4)

$$\lambda = \lambda_o + \lambda_i \tag{S5}$$

$$\Delta G^{\circ_{\neq}} = \frac{(\Delta G_{\rm r} + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda} \tag{S6}$$

where  $a_1$  is the radii of the oxidant,  $a_2$  is the radii of the reductant,  $R = a_1 + a_2$ ,  $\varepsilon \varepsilon_{op}$  is the optical dielectric constant ( $\varepsilon_{op} = 2.25$ ),  $\varepsilon$  is the static dielectric constant for the tetrahydrofuran solvent ( $\varepsilon = 7.425$ ), and  $\Delta G_r$  is the free energy change of the reaction.

**Table S1** Relative energies of selected species involving different spin states calculated

 with using various functionals and basis sets.

Functionals	<sup>4</sup> N1	<sup>2</sup> N1	<sup>6</sup> N4	<sup>4</sup> N4	<sup>2</sup> N4	<sup>2</sup> N7	<sup>4</sup> N7	<sup>6</sup> N7	<sup>U-2</sup> N9a	<sup>U-4</sup> N9a	<sup>2</sup> N10a	<sup>4</sup> N10a
<sup>a</sup> <b>M06</b>	0.0	10.1	0.0	1.4	10.5	0.0	4.1	15.1	0.0	3.5	0.0	3.5
<sup>b</sup> <b>M06</b>	0.0	4.8	0.0	7.7	8.4	0.0	13.6	27.9	0.0	2.8	0.0	3.2
<sup>c</sup> Sol-M06	0.0	11.6	0.0	4.8	10.3	0.0	2.3	13.5	0.0	0.8	0.0	2.8
<sup>d</sup> M062X	0.0	17.0	0.0	39.0	45.4	0.0	11.2	13.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	4.7
<sup>e</sup> B3-D3	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.0	4.2	0.0	16.7	27.5	0.0	2.4	0.0	6.9
<b>TPSSH</b>	0.0	-12.8	0.0	1.3	-18.8	0.0	23.6	37.4	0.0	18.5	0.0	23.6

 $^a$  at the SMD(THF)/(U)M06/[6-311++G(d,p)/SDD(Co)]//(U)M06/[6-31G(d)/LanL2DZ(Co)] level  $^a$ 

 $^b$  at the SMD(THF)/(U)M06/[def2-TZVPP]//(U)M06/[def2-SVP] level

 $^{c}$  at the SMD(THF)/(U)M06/[6-311++G(d,p)/SDD(Co)]//SMD(THF)/(U)M06/[6-31G(d)/ LanL2DZ(Co)] level

 $^{\textit{d}}$  at the SMD(THF)/(U)M062X/[6-311++G(d,p)/SDD(Co)]//(U)M062X/[6-31G(d)/LanL2DZ(Co)] level

<sup>e</sup> at the SMD(THF)/(U)B3-D3/[6-311++G(d,p)/SDD(Co)]//(U)B3-D3/[6-31G(d)/LanL2DZ(Co)] level

<sup>f</sup> at the SMD(THF)/(U)TPSSH/[def2TZVP]//(U)M06/[6-31G(d)/LanL2DZ(Co)] level



Fig. S1 Gibbs energy profiles ( $\Delta G^{\circ}_{298.15}$ ) of benzenesulfonimide radical dissociation from <sup>U-4</sup>N3 followed by transmetalation and HAT.



**Fig. S2** Gibbs energy profiles ( $\Delta G^{\circ}_{298.15}$ ) of carbon cation electrophilic attack pathway.



Fig. S3 Thermodynamic and kinetic evaluation for the oxidation of  $Co^{III}$ -alkyl by  $Co^{III}$ -N(SO<sub>2</sub>Ph)<sub>2</sub> to arrive at the Co<sup>IV</sup>-alkyl intermediate.



Fig. S4 Kinetic energy barrier calculations for steps involving SET.



Fig. S5 Gibbs energy profiles ( $\Delta G^{\circ}_{298.15}$ ) of cobalt catalytic cycle.



Fig. S6 Gibbs energy profiles ( $\Delta G^{\circ}_{298.15}$ ) of benzylic radical attacking the N(SO<sub>2</sub>Ph)<sub>2</sub> pathway with one ligand's oxygen atom changed to the axial position.



**Fig. S7** Comparison of optimized geometries of L1\*Co<sup>III</sup>F and L1\*Co<sup>III</sup>H compounds with different electron spin states.



**Fig. S8** Comparison of optimized geometries of L1\*Co<sup>IV</sup>F and L1\*Co<sup>IV</sup>H compounds with different electron spin states.



Fig. S9 Selected d orbitals of cobalt compounds in various valence states (<sup>4</sup>N1, <sup>U-4</sup>N3, <sup>6</sup>N4, <sup>U-2</sup>N9a, <sup>2</sup>N10a).

From the NBO analysis:

(i) The cobalt compound <sup>4</sup>N1 has five  $\alpha$  electrons and two  $\beta$  electrons, indicating it is a divalent cobalt compound in a quadruple state.

(ii) The cobalt compound <sup>U-4</sup>N3 has five  $\alpha$  electrons and one  $\beta$  electron, along with a  $\beta$  fluorine atom radical, also suggesting it is a divalent cobalt compound in a quadruple state.

(iii) The d orbital of  ${}^{6}N4$  contains five  $\alpha$  electrons, indicating that  ${}^{6}N4$  is a tetravalent cobalt compound in a sextet state.

(iv) The cobalt compound <sup>U-2</sup>N9a has four  $\alpha$  electrons and two  $\beta$  electrons, along with a  $\beta$  benzylic carbon radical, classifying it as a divalent cobalt compound in a quadruple state.

(v) The d orbital of <sup>2</sup>N10a has three  $\alpha$  electrons and two  $\beta$  electrons, indicating that <sup>2</sup>N10a is a tetravalent cobalt compound in a doublet state.

Optimized structures of enantio-determining transition states  $H \subset N \odot S C_O$  $U^{4}TS4e^S$   $\Delta \Delta G^{\circ \ddagger} = 2.0 \text{ kcal/mol}$ 

Fig. S10 Comparison of optimized geometries of enantio-determining transition states <sup>U-4</sup>TS4e<sup>S</sup> and <sup>U-4</sup>TS4e<sup>R</sup>.

### REFERENCES

S1. (a) Sakaki, S.; Ohnishi, Y. Y.; Sato, H., Theoretical and Computational Studies of Organometallic Reactions: Successful or Not? *Chem. Rec.* 2010, *10*, 29–45; (b) Ishikawa, A., Nakao, Y., Sato, H.; Sakaki, S., Oxygen Atom Transfer Reactions of Iridium and Osmium Complexes: Theoretical Study of Characteristic Features and Significantly Large Differences between These Two Complexes. *Inorg. Chem.* 2009, *48*, 8154–8163; (c) Ishikawa, A., Nakao, Y., Sato, H.; Sakaki, S., Pd(II)-Promoted Direct Cross-Coupling Reaction of Arenes via Highly Regioselective Aromatic C–H Activation: A Theoretical Study. *Dalton Trans.* 2010, *39*, 3279–3289.